IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
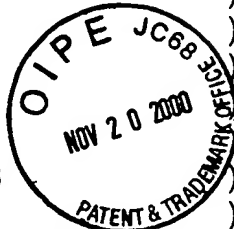
In re Continuation Application of:)

MATENA, Vladimir)

Serial No.: 09/023,074)

Filed: February 13, 1998)

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS)
        FOR RELIABLE DISK FENCING)
        IN A MULTICOMPUTER)
        SYSTEM)

Prior Application Data
Serial No. 08/552,316
    Filed: November 2, 1995

Group Art Unit: 2785

Examiner: LE, Dieu-Minh Thai

RECEIVED

NOV 2 4 2000

Technology Center 2100

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above-reference application, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 14, 17, and 24 as follows:

1.   (Amended)   A method for preventing access to a shared peripheral device by a processor-based node in a multinode system, [including the steps of] comprising:

(1) storing at the peripheral device a first unique value representing a first configuration of the multinode system;

(2) sending an access request from the node to the device, the request including a second unique value representing a second configuration of the multi[-]node system;

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